

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 FEA-02 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-03

SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

OMB-01 SWF-02 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 DRC-01 /248 W

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R 081722Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7336

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES FOR PROCESSED FRUIT AND
VEGETABLES STATUS REPORT

REF: (A)EC BRUSSELS 0183 (B) STATE 11683 (C) EC BRUSSELS 6489

(D) EC A-278 OF 8/4/71

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR A COMMON IMPORT SYS-

TEM FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLE, WHICH INCLUDES PROPOSED MINIMUM

IMPORT PRICES FOR SELECTED PRODUCTS, IS BOGGED DOWN IN A COUNCIL WORKING GROUP. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARE PESSIMISTIC OVER THE CHANCES FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION OF A COMMON IMPORT SYSTEM THIS YEAR. DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL HAVE CENTERED ON THE PRODUCT COVERAGE OF AN IMPORT SYSTEM WITH ALMOST ALL MEMBER STATES REQUESTING EXCLUSION

FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS. MEANWHILE, THE FRENCH MUSHROOM INDUSTRY HAS REQUESTED THAT COMMUNITY SAFEGUARD MEASURE BE APPLIED TO IMPORTS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. SUCH MEASURES, IF ENACTED, COULD RESULT IN AN INCREASED FLOW OF ASIAN MUSHROOMS TO THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED IN REF. A, THE COMMISSION'S LATEST PROPOSAL FOR A COMMON IMPORT SYSTEM FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WAS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY 1974. THIS PROPOSED IMPORT SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR (A) MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES FOR SIX "SENSITIVE" PRODUCTS (INCLUDING CANNED PEACHES AND CITRUS JUICES) AND FOR ONE "SUPER-SENSITIVE" PRODUCT (TOMATO CONCENTRATES); (B) IMPORT LICENSING AND SURETY DEPOSITS FOR THOSE PRODUCTS; (C) THE ELIMINATION OF NATIONAL QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION; AND (D) THE POSSIBILITY OF APPLYING SAFEGUARD MEASURES. (PROVISION FOR SAFEGUARD MEASURES ALREADY EXISTS, THROUGH COUNCIL REGULATION NO. 1527/71--SEE REF. D).

3. THE COUNCIL'S SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE SINCE JANUARY HAS HAD A NUMBER OF DISCUSSION ON THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL IN PREPARATION FOR EVENTUAL COUNCIL CONSIDERATION. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS IN THE COMMISSION'S AGRICULTURAL DIRECTORATE, THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE CENTERED ON WHETHER CERTAIN PRODUCTS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM COVERAGE OF THE PROPOSED IMPORT SYSTEM. EXCLUSION OF A PRODUCT WOULD MEAN THAT MEMBER STATES WOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY THEIR NATIONAL RULES, INSTEAD OF COMMON RULES, TO IMPORTS OF THE PRODUCT IN QUESTION.

4. ITALY FIRST REQUESTED THAT CITRUS JUICES BE EXCLUDED FOR A 4 - 5 YEAR PERIOD FROM ANY COMMON SYSTEM ESTABLISHED. THIS ITALIAN REQUEST PRECIPITATED A SERIES OF SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALMOST ALL MEMBER STATES. FRANCE, FOR EXAMPLE, REPORTEDLY REQUESTED EXCLUSION FOR CANNED PEACHES AND DRIED PRUNES, AMONG OTHER PRODUCTS.

5. THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE PROBABLY WILL AGAIN TAKE UP THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL IN LATE SEPTEMBER. COMMISSION OFFICIALS CONSIDER THAT IF IN THE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, THE COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO BE BOGGED DOWN OVER REQUESTS FOR EXCLUSIONS,

THE COUNCIL MAY HAVE TO STEP IN TO GIVE GUIDANCE. IN ANY EVENT, COMMISSION OFFICIALS SEE LITTLE CHANCE OF THE COUNCIL APPROVING A COMMON IMPORT SYSTEM THIS YEAR.

6. THE STATUS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS IN A COMMON IMPORT SYSTEM HAS ALSO COME UP FOR DISCUSSION IN THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE AND IN THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL DOES NOT INCLUDE CANNED MUSHROOMS AMONG THE LIST OF PRODUCTS PROPOSED TO BE SUBJECT TO MIP'S. FRANCE, WHOSE CANNED MUSHROOM PRODUCTION HAS EXPANDED IN RECENT YEARS, WANTS MIP'S FOR THAT PRODUCT. MEANWHILE, PRESSURES HAVE BEEN BUILDING FOR THE APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARD MEASURES TO IMPORTS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. AMID RUMORS THAT EC IMPORTERS HAVE RECENTLY CONTRACTED FOR A LARGE VOLUME OF MUSHROOMS FROM CHINA, THE FRENCH MUSHROOM INDUSTRY HAS REQUESTED COMMUNITY SAFEGUARD MEASURES. HOWEVER, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, FRANCE HAS AS YET SUBMITTED AN OFFICIAL REQUEST TO THE COMMISSION FOR SUCH MEASURES.

SOME COMMISSION OFFICIALS SEEM TO EXPECT A REQUEST TO BE FORTHCOMING, ALTHOUGH THEY SAY FRANCE MAY BE HESITATING BECAUSE OF THE ADVERSE REACTION FROM BOTH THE COMMISSION AND THIRD COUNTRIES, TO THE BEEF IMPORT BAN.

7. EC SAFEGUARD MEASURES FOR CANNED MUSHROOMS COULD RESULT IN THE THIRD COUNTRIES DIRECTLY AFFECTED (TAIWAN, CHINA, AND KOREA) DIVERTING THEIR SUPPLIES TO THE U.S. JOHNSTON

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